

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1093

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, GB
SUBJ: FY 1980 TRADE PROMOTION EVENT SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 134368

1. WHILE EMBASSY BASICALLY CONCURS IN PROPOSED FY 1980 TRADE PROMOTION EVENT SCHEDULE, WE BELIEVE THAT INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS MISSION WOULD BE OF ONLY MARGINAL VALUE. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO INDUSTRY HERE APART FROM PETROLEUM REFINING AND ALTHOUGH AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY IN THIRD DEVELOPMENT PLAN, IMMEDIATE AND FORESEEABLE POTENTIAL FOR EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

IS LIMITED. MINING EQUIPMENT MISSION WOULD, HOWEVER, BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR GABON. NEXT PREFERENCES ARE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT MISSION AND HARDWARE/BUILDING SUPPLIES MISSION.

2. AS FAR AS TIMING IS CONCERNED, EMBASSY HOPES THAT MINIMUM OF THREE FULL MONTHS WOULD BE ALLOWED BETWEEN ANY TWO EVENTS. CLOSER SCHEDULING WOULD SEVERELY TAX RESOURCES OF POST. JUNE 1980 VIDEO TAPE SHOW FOR CONSUMER GOODS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED AS EARLY IN JUNE AS POSSIBLE, PRIOR TO THE TRADITIONAL SUMMER EXODUS OF BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

3. IF INCLUDING GABON IN PROGRAM FOR MINING EQUIPMENT MISSION
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IS NOT FEASIBLE, WE SUGGEST THAT MISSION MEMBERS BE ENCOURAGED TO TRAVEL TO GABON ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. EVEN THOUGH TWO MAJOR MINING COMPANIES HERE (COMILOG AND COMUF) PURCHASE US-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT, USUALLY DIRECTLY FROM MANUFACTURERS, MINING COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES' TRAVEL TO GABON WOULD BE USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE. TIENKEN

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